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## Grammar: Adjectives – Degree of comparison & Adverbs





## ADJECTIVES

- Adjectives are words that describe nouns (or pronouns).
- E.g: "Old," "green," and "cheerful"
- It might be useful to think of adjectives as "describing words."



## Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe nouns.

### 1 Attributive adjectives

...go before the noun.



### 2 Predicative adjectives

...go after the noun and complete a linking verb.



### 3 Postpositive adjectives

...go immediately after the noun.





## Adjective Before the Noun

An adjective usually comes directly **before the noun** it describes

- old man
- Brown coat
- cheerful one

("One" is a pronoun. Don't forget that adjectives modify pronouns too.)

### Adjective After the Noun

An adjective can come after the noun.

- Jack was old.
- It looks blue.
- He seems cheerful.

### Adjective Immediately After the Noun

Sometimes, an adjective comes immediately after a noun.

- time immemorial
- the best seats available
- the worst manners imaginable



## Degree of Comparison

Adjective change in form when they show comparison.

**Positive Degree**: An adjective is said to be in the positive degree when there is no comparison. E.g: beautiful

**Comparative Degree**: An adjective is said to be in the comparative degree when it is used to compare two nouns/pronouns. E.g: more beautiful

**Superlative Degree**: An adjective is in superlative degree when it is used to compare more than two nouns/pronouns. We use the article 'the' before the superlative degrees. E.g: most beautiful



## Formation of Comparative & Superlative Degrees of Adjectives

1) by addition of '-er' and '-est' to the positive degree

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bright	brighter	brightest
black	blacker	blackest
bold	bolder	boldest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
cold	colder	coldest
fast	faster	fastest
great	greater	greatest
high	higher	highest
kind	kinder	kindest
long	longer	longest
rich	richer	richest
small	smaller	smallest
strong	stronger	strongest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
tall	taller	tallest
thick	thicker	thickest
young	younger	youngest

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2) by addition of '-r' and '-st' to the positive degree ending in 'e'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
brave	braver	bravest
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
nice	nicer	nicest
noble	nobler	noblest
pale	paler	palest
simple	simpler	simplest
wise	wiser	wisest
white	whiter	whitest



3) When the positive ends in 'y' and has a consonant before it, we change 'y' into 'i' and then add 'er' and 'est'.

By deleting the final 'y' and adding 'ier' and 'iest'		
POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
costly	costlier	costliest
dry	drier	driest
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
lazy	lazier	laziest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest





- 4) when the positive degree ends in a consonant with a vowel before it, we double the consonant & then add '-er' and '-est'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
<b>big</b>	bigger	biggest
<b>dim</b>	dimmer	dimmest
<b>fat</b>	fatter	fattest
<b>hot</b>	hotter	hottest
<b>thin</b>	thinner	thinnest

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5) by placing 'more' and 'most' before the positive form

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
active	more active	most active
attractive	more attractive	most attractive
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
brilliant	more brilliant	most brilliant
careful	more careful	most careful
courageous	more courageous	most courageous
cunning	more cunning	most cunning
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
famous	more famous	most famous
faithful	more faithful	most faithful
important	more important	most important
proper	more proper	most proper
popular	more popular	most popular
splendid	more splendid	most splendid
suitable	more suitable	most suitable

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## **Be sure to use adjectives in your composition**

- Describe yourself.
- Describe the day (morning so far, what you had for lunch).
- Describe a place you like the most.
- Describe a person you most admire.



## **Make sentences from the following words:**

- Frightened / frightening
- Excited / exciting
- Annoying / annoyed
- Interesting / interested
- Pleasant
- Terrible



## Degrees of comparison exercise

**Adjective has three forms – positive, comparative and superlative.**

Complete the following sentences using the appropriate form of the adjective.

**1. She is ..... than her sister.**

pretty

prettier

prettiest

**2. Martha is a ..... girl.**

nice

nicer

Nicest

**3. Supriya is the ..... girl in the class.**

intelligent

more intelligent

most intelligent

**Answer :**

**Prettier, nice, most intelligent,**



## ADVERBS

An **adverb** is a word which modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb.



Girl runs **quickly**.



This is a **very** sweet mango.



Peter reads **quite** clearly.



## What is an adverb?

An adverb is a word that can modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Lots of adverbs end with "-ly." For example:

- She swims **quickly**.  
(Here, the adverb "quickly" modifies the verb "swims.")
- She is an **extremely** quick swimmer.  
(The adverb "extremely" modifies the adjective "quick.")
- She swims **extremely quickly**.  
(The adverb "extremely" modifies the adverb "quickly.")

## What do adverbs do?

When an adverb modifies a verb, it tells us how, when, where, why, how often, or how much the action is performed. Here are some examples of adverbs modifying verbs:

- How: He ran **quickly**.
- When: He ran **yesterday**.
- Where: He ran **here**.
- How often: He ran **daily**.
- How much: He ran **fastest**.





## Types of Adverb

When an adverb modifies a verb, it can often be categorized as one of the following:

Type	Examples
<b>Adverb of Manner</b> (how)	An adverb of manner tells us how an action occurs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The lion crawled <u>stealthily</u>.</li><li>• Will you come <u>quietly</u>, or do I have to use earplugs? (NB: Lots of adverbs of manner end "-ly.")</li></ul>
<b>Adverb of Time</b> (when and how often)	An adverb of time tells us when an action occurs or how often. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I tell him <u>daily</u>.</li></ul> <p>(NB: Adverbs of time that tell us how often something occurs (e.g., "always," "often," "sometimes" are also known as "adverbs of frequency.")</p>
<b>Adverb of Place</b> (where)	An adverb of place tells us where an action occurs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I did not put it <u>there</u>.</li></ul>
<b>Adverb of Degree</b> (Adverb of Comparison) (how much)	An adverb of degree tells us to what degree an action occurs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He works <u>smarter</u>.</li></ul>



## Recognizing Adjectives & Adverbs

- Many words have both an adjective and adverb form

Adjective	Adverb
<b>Happy</b> kids	Playing <b>happily</b>
<b>Smooth</b> rock	Running <b>smoothly</b>
<b>Good</b> night	Eating <b>Well</b>
<b>Efficient</b> workers	Working <b>efficiently</b>
<b>Casual</b> dress	Dressing <b>casually</b>
<b>Quick</b> meeting	Talking <b>quickly</b>
<b>hopeful</b> children	Waiting <b>hopefully</b>
<b>Real</b> butter	<b>Really</b> hot



**1. Which sentence is NOT correct?**

- They ran quickly.
- We worked hardly.
- The boys slept heavily.

**2. Which word can go in the blank?**

*Mr Townsend always works \_\_\_\_\_.*

- fastly
- carefully
- lately

**3. Which sentence is NOT correct?**

- Anna spoke politely to her teacher.
- Anna politely spoke to her teacher.
- Politely Anna spoke to her teacher.

Ans:

1. We worked hardly, 2. CAREFULLY, 3.  
POLITELY ANNA SPOKE TO HER TEACHER



## Highlight the adverb

1. The sun is extremely hot.
2. She is very exhausted due to her classes.
3. She sleeps a bit in the afternoon.
4. Jolly is really good in speaking.
5. Car was fast enough.
6. The alarm rang loudly.
7. The sweater is too big.
8. Later Ana ate salad.
9. She lived in New York city for a year.
10. This magazine is published monthly.
11. I haven't finished my sentences yet.



## Highlight the adverb (Answers)

1. The sun is **extremely** hot.
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6. The alarm rang **loudly**.
7. The sweater is **too** big.
8. **Later** Ana ate salad.
9. She lived in New York city for **a year**.
10. This magazine is published **monthly**.
11. I haven't finished my sentences **yet**.